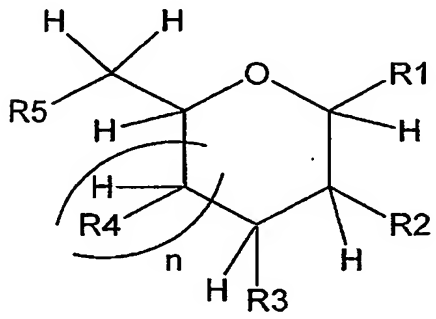
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I being a derivative of a furanose or pyranose form of a monosaccharide,



formula I

Wherein, n is 0 or 1;

R1 is XR wherein,

X is selected from O; S; S=O and SO_2,

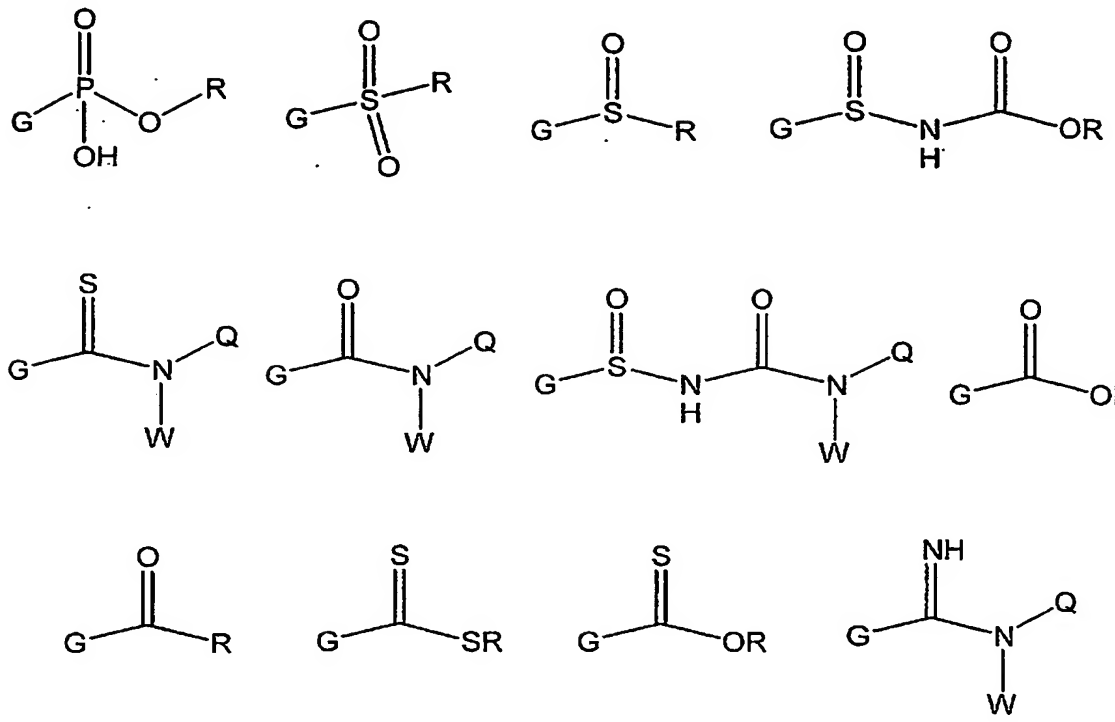
R is selected from the group consisting of C1 to C9 alkyl, C1 to C15 alkenyl, C1 to C15 alkynyl, C1 to C15 heteroalkyl, C6 to C15 aryl, C6 to C15 heteroaryl, C6 to C15 arylalkyl or C6 to C15 heteroarylalkyl which is optionally substituted, cyclic or acyclic, branched and/or linear,

the groups R2 to R5 are selected from OH, OR and N(Y)Z such that:

at least one of the groups R2 to R5 and not more than two of the groups R2 to R5 are OH,

at least one of the groups R2 to R5 and not more than two of the groups R2 to R5 are OR, where R is defined above, with the proviso that when two of the groups R2 to R5 are OR, the R groups may not both be methyl or unsubstituted benzyl,

at least one of the groups R2 to R5 and not more than two of the groups R2 to R5 are N(Y)Z, where Z is selected from hydrogen or R and Y is selected from the following, where G denotes the point of connection to the nitrogen atom in N(Y)Z, the N(Y)Z moieties may not be the same;



and the groups Q and W are independently selected from hydrogen or R as is defined above, and Q and W may combine to form a cycle,

the groups Z and Y may combine to form a cycle,

the groups R1 to R5 may not combine together to form a cycle,

with the proviso that where two groups in the compound of formula I are N(Y)Z, these groups are different,

with the further proviso that when either R2 or R5 is N(Y)Z, N(Y)Z may not be azido, acetyl, benzyloxycarbonyl or t-butoxycarbonyl,

with the further proviso that when R2 is N(Y)Z, N(Y)Z may not be phthalimido, 4-[*N*-[1-(4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxocyclo-hexylidene)-3-methylbutyl]-amino}benzyl ester (ODmab), *N*-1-(4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)ethyl (Dde), 2,2,2-Trichloroethoxycarbonyl (Troc), 9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc), or a 5-Acyl-1,3-dimethylbarbiturate type protecting group (DTPM),

with the further proviso that when the scaffold is of the 2-deoxy-2-aminoglucose configuration and R5 and R4 are both hydroxyl, R3 may not be a glycolate [-